

## **EARTH SCIENCES AND YOU**

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"Earth Sciences and You" is a bimonthly bulletin that highlights the Applications, Outreach, and Educational Activities of the Earth Sciences Directorate at Goddard Space Flight Center

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#### **NASA Launches Earth Science "Webzine"**

NASA's Earth Observatory web site, which opened on April 29, 1999, has proven to be a popular new source of Earth science information. With a magazine format, the site is designed to give the general public a deeper understanding of climatic and environmental change, as well as to widen awareness of NASA's use of satellite technologies to study the Earth.

The site has already received more than 1.2 million hits from over 80 different countries around the world. More than 60,000 global images have been requested in the site's "Observation Deck", and over 3,500 people have subscribed to receive automatic weekly updates as new material is added (about 500 new subscribers are coming on-line each week). Additionally, the site was promoted in the May 14th issue of Science magazine.

The Earth Observatory is expanding continuously with new content in each room, and major changes are planned for the transition from test to operational status this fall. The front page is updated weekly with new and newsworthy stories. Jim Collatz and Steve Running are assisting in the development of an interactive web-based land biospheric model to allow visitors to learn about many of the same cause-and-effect relationships that EOS scientists are studying. Additionally, new global data sets will be added every month-including those from MODIS-once Terra launches.

The site (<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>) uses rooms to separate different types of content and help users navigate. Briefly, the rooms and their purposes are as follows:

1. Observation Deck-monthly global data sets at 1-degree resolution. Visitors can visually correlate data sets as movies or 3D spheres.
2. Study-presents feature stories, complemented by remote sensing images, on new science results and/or applications. These stories highlight state-of-the-art Earth science, and the people at the forefront of research.
3. Library-NASA fact sheets, glossary, and other reference materials; e.g., "What is El Nino?" or "What is an aerosol?"
4. Newsroom-a media writer's research tool for the latest Earth science news. This room highlights press releases from NASA PAO, universities, and other agencies, and indicates other media sources that report on NASA stories. It also provides details on current & upcoming field campaigns.

5. Mission Control-enables visitors to track the orbits of EOS satellites based upon telemetry data.
6. Laboratory-interactive learning tools for simple, Web-based experimentation. Will feature simple climate models & image compositers. Primarily an educator's tool for teaching about Earth system science and remote sensing in the classroom (this room is still under heavy development).

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